

# INDEXA



Spring 2003

Issue 61

A non-profit organization for the enhancement of amateur radio, worldwide peace, and friendship  
Daily Information Session — 14.236 MHz @ 23:30z

## Republic of Sudan—ST2X 2003

*excerpts from an article by Gerben A. Menting, PA5NT*

Since the mid 90s, I have been in contact with the authorities in Sudan who are responsible for frequency management and licensing. I knew it would be a long process to obtain a license but with the support of my good friend Amin Bashir and the local Yaesu representative, my license application was approved with the callsign ST2X.

### Considerations

I lived in Sudan from 1987 to 1991 so I knew how customs worked and how things could go wrong for all kinds of reasons. Furthermore, bringing radio equipment and antennas into the country was uncommon and had to be done with great care. For these reasons, I decided a low profile expedition would be the best approach.

Because amateur radio has just reopened for foreigners, I decided to go as soon as the license was in hand. I decided to organize a one-man expedition as this did not require planning with other operators and I could respond quickly to changing circumstances in order to avoid delay. Moreover, I had accommodations available for myself which would not have been sufficient if I went with more people.

### Limitations

The decision to be a one man expedition brings a number of limitations.

The main constraints are money and weight. I knew another operation was scheduled to take place so I thought it was justifiable to have a simple station setup. My goal was to give people a first time new one and completion of 5BWAZ or 5BDXCC would be secondary.

### Equipment Selection

The first priority was to have a small radio that could easily fit in my hand luggage. I contacted Yaesu Europe and discussed the use of the brand new FT-897, an ideal expedition transceiver because it has a built-in switched power supply which makes it feature rich, compact, and light.

A few days before departure the FT-897 and the FP-30C switching power supply were on hand but the automatic antenna tuner was not yet available so at the last minute I ordered the MFJ-901B which is very small and suitable for the work. My

plan was to take an R7000 which could normally be used without a tuner but the G5RV would certainly need a tuner. Logging would be done with the latest version of CT.

### Traveling

When checking-in at the counter at Schiphol airport, there were no problems. The antenna box had to be placed in a special carriage for odd sizes and that completed a very easy check-in. I was flying from Amsterdam via Frankfurt and Cairo to Khar-

*(Continued on next page)*



**Gerben A. Menting, PA5NT/ST2X**

**inside...** *E-newsletter*

**Staff Member—KJ6OW**

**Humanitarian joins INDEXA Board of Directors—XE1CI**

toum. At arrival I had to declare the radios at customs. After finalizing customs, I was welcomed by my good friend Amin Bashir who was working with me during 1987-1991 in a telecommunications rehabilitation project in Sudan. It was a great feeling to be back in Khartoum after 12 years.

### The work starts

The next day we visited the National Telecommunications Corporation (NTC) to obtain a letter for clearing my radios and then we went directly to the customs office at the airport to clear the radios. After some negotiations all was ready for release but the cashier was not at his desk so we could not pay the duties and the radio had to remain in the warehouse. This was a serious drawback as it suspended my appearance on the air and shortened my air time. I did not want to think about what could happen the next day and fully trusted the capabilities of Amin who is very experienced in handling such situations.

I spent the rest of the day buying food supplies and preparing the operating sight. The site was a house which is used as an office and located in New Extension, a quarter just outside the city centre of Khartoum. It is mostly a residential area with a limited number of multi-story buildings. I had one of the offices in the house at my disposal, completely furnished with a desk, table, cupboard, bed, air conditioning, and a fan and I could also use a telephone line for my Internet connection. I also had a mobile phone available.

The roof of the office and the adjacent house were available for antennas and I could easily fix the R7000 to the surrounding structure of the roof. It did not take long to have the installation finished. For safety reasons I fixed 4 small guy wires in case we had strong winds.

The evening was spent having a traditional dinner with another good



**National Telecommunications  
Headquarters**

friend. Since I was unable to operate, I enjoyed a relaxed evening.

The next day, we were very excited when the radios arrived at the operating site.

It did not take long before the station was installed and hooked up to the R7000 vertical antenna. There was quite a high noise level but I was able to copy the signals and the first QSO was made on 21 January at 10:24 UTC with OK1QF on 15 meters.

Shortly after, I was visited by Mr. Eng Hassab and Mr. Mohamed of the NTC. They were eager to see the station and how my operation was going. We had a very pleasant meeting and discussion about the operation and the setup of the station.

For the rest of the day I continued to operate. As Murphy can always strike and jeopardize the operation, I gave the highest priority to making contacts.

### 21-28 January

On Tuesday, 21 January, I decided, with Amin's help, to install the G5RV because it would be less sensitive to the noise.

The following days had more or

less the same pattern. In the morning I started with breakfast and then continued operating. Depending on visitors or power cuts, I operated most of the day and evening. This was only interrupted by antenna work, shower, reading mail and taking food. I had many discussions with Amin and his brother Tarig about amateur radio in Sudan and they were very excited about the progress of the operation.

I concluded each day by uploading the log files to my Web site.

With the progress I made each day, I realized it was possible to make some 7,000 contacts.

On Monday, 27 January, we had a meeting with Mr. Eng Hassab Elrasoul Abulgasim and his staff who requested a presentation about my operation. This showed their interest in amateur radio and was a very positive sign. The presentation included planning, station setup, propagation and the results so far.

After the presentation I had the opportunity to donate a Yaesu FT-840 on behalf of Yaesu Europe for the radio club. In addition, I donated an MFJ-901B antenna tuner and a G5RV dipole on behalf of the European DX Foundation.

Tuesday, 28 January, was the last day so after breakfast I started to dismantle the R7000 and began the process of packing. That evening I had to complete my target of 7,000 contacts and this was concluded with QSO number 7,001 with DJ8RS at



**A visit from Mr. Eng Hassab Elrasoul  
Abulgasim and Mr. Mohamed of the  
National Telecommunications  
Corporation**

16:45Z on 17 meters. The master file was copied to different media for security reasons. Unfortunately, just before departure, I could not upload the files to my Web site due to problems with my hosting provider.

At the last moment, the station was dismantled and all equipment was packed again. A last cup of coffee with Amin and Tarig and we left for the airport. After several checks and searching of my entire luggage, I finally boarded the plane and flew back to Amsterdam. This was the end of 10 days of excitement and hard work.

### The sponsors

Without the support of my sponsors, this expedition could not have taken place. I especially want to mention Amin and Tarig Bashir. They guided this operation from the beginning till the end and supported me 24 hours a day.

I also thank Yaesu Europe B.V., the European DX Foundation, **INDEXA**, and the German DX Foundation.

To enjoy this article in its entirety, please visit <[www.dx.to](http://www.dx.to)>.

## E-newsletter up and running!

The electronic version of the **INDEXA** newsletter is now available!

If you would like to join the growing number of members who opt for the e-version, please contact **INDEXA's** secretary-treasurer, Bill Jennings, W4UNP, and include/confirm your e-mail address. Bill may be contacted at: **W4UNP@comporium.net**.

The e-newsletter is sent as a PDF file and can be opened on all systems by Adobe Acrobat Reader.

The e-format also creates significant savings in postage fees which means more available funds to support DXpeditions!

## XE1CI shows the world the power of human kindness by Joan Gibson, KG1F, and reprinted with the permission of the ARRL from an article published in QST March, 1989. Copyright ARRL.

*Editor's note: In 2002, INDEXA's Board of Directors appointed Nellie, XE1CI, to the Board. INDEXA is very fortunate to have her aboard and as you read about her life and accomplishments it will become clear exactly why we are honored that she is with us.*

Nellie Saltiel de Lazard, XE1CI, became interested in Amateur Radio in 1968 when the Olympic Games were held in Mexico City. "My brother, XE1SR, helped with communications for the games and for me it was a very emotional experience seeing the reaction of the young athletes when they heard the voices of their loved ones back home. Some would weep when they talked and listened to their families so far away." Sharing this wonderful experience with her brother and family was the turning point that made Nellie decide that "no matter what it would take, I would become a licensed amateur." In 1970, Nellie became XE1CI. Little did she know where Amateur Radio would take her.

Nellie was educated in the US at Bryn Mawr College, where she majored in liberal arts. After returning to Mexico, Nellie chose to follow her interest in medicine by becoming a volunteer at the Children's Hospital de Mexico. She was accepted immediately because she spoke both English and French, and the hospital needed a translator.

"That was the greatest experience I have ever had in my life. For three years nothing mattered to me more than to be able to see a sick child smile at me, instead of seeing a face full of fear, pain and tears. The children had so many kinds of problems—third-degree burns, stomach infections, malnutrition, physical handicaps, abuse and rare illnesses."

Each morning Nellie started her work day by serving breakfast to the children. "I had to be in every ward—



**INDEXA directors Nellie, XE1CI, and Franz, DJ9ZB, at Friedenhapen, Germany**

(photo courtesy of DJ9ZB)

surgery, orthopedics, contagious diseases, malnutrition and general medicine. I must admit that I had my favorite patients on each ward! After breakfast, we gave the children baths and arranged their beds. After the doctors made rounds, we took the children to the garden and played with them, then returned to the wards for lunch and their rest period." One of her fondest memories is of the chief physician at Children's Hospital who told Nellie she was "really spoiling most of the kids, and that they were going to suffer when they were out of the hospital for lack of attention and love!" She agreed with the doctor, but it seemed to her that once in their lifetime the children should have a moment that was going to be remembered by them with great satisfaction, and they would cherish it.

After a nine-month trip to Brazil to work at another children's hospital, she returned to Mexico. The first week after she returned, she met her future husband. A year later they were married.

(To be continued in the next issue)



## Staff Member—Terry Morton, KJ6OW

In December, 2002, Terry Morton, KJ6OW, became the newest member of the INDEXA Information Session staff.

Sixty-six year old Terry was first licensed in 1985.

He has been married for thirty-nine years to Nadine who is also a ham. Her callsign is KC6DHO.

Like most of the staff members, Terry is modest and hesitant to talk about himself; however, INDEXA has learned that during Ron Wright's, ZL1AMO, critical illness, Terry relayed information and updates be-



Terry Morton, KJ6OW

tween California and Ron's many amateur radio friends in Hawaii! Terry was on top of every development and always eager to assist the ZL1AMO Air Ambulance Fund with publicity and personal updates to Ron's interested and caring Hawaiian supporters.

Most recently, he and Nadine represented INDEXA, along with Don, KB6KTV, and his wife, Camille, at the Visalia International DX Convention.

If you ask Terry, "what is your favorite thing?" guess what he will answer? You got it! **DX!**

Welcome to the team, Terry!

### UX5UO print

QSL Cards - Distinctive - Unique - Affordable  
<http://users.i.com.ua/~ux5uo/english/index.html>

1000 pcs at \$24 for bureau cards  
 at \$40 for 2 colors cards  
 at \$62 for varnished photo cards.

Handling / shipping expenses are included.  
 For samples and information contact:

Stephen M. Grose, K4YL (exW4SMG)  
 E-mail: [k4yl@arri.net](mailto:k4yl@arri.net)

P.O.Box 183 Flat Rock NC 28731 USA



### DX World Guide by Franz Langner, DJ9ZB

Rojahn & Kraft Verlag, P.O. Box 620367, D-22403 Hamburg  
 (\$17 US + postage)

INDEXA POB 607 · Rock Hill, SC · 29731 · USA

### The International DX Association

Annual membership: \$15 U.S.  
 Life membership: \$150 U.S.

Join INDEXA! Support DX, participate in daily  
 DX Info Session, and receive quarterly  
 INDEXA newsletter—

For more information send an SASE to:  
 Bill Jennings, W4UNP  
 Secretary-Treasurer, INDEXA  
 P. O. Box 607  
 Rock Hill, SC 29731 USA



Since 1989

**QRZ DX Newsletter**  
 Available each  
 Week by Regular  
 Mail; Or, by email  
 as a PDF file with  
 Special bulletins  
 on late breaking  
 DX News.



Since 1979

Six times a year,  
**The DX Magazine**  
 brings you  
 stories about  
 DXpeditions  
 by those who  
 were there and  
 much more.

**DX Publishing, Inc.**  
 PO Box DX  
 Leicester, NC 28748  
 CALL: 877-397-8254



Since 1991, ProLog has been the logging program  
 of choice. For a features list, screenshots, reviews,  
 user comments and secure ordering, visit us at:

**WWW.PROLOG2K.COM**

Datamatrix 5560 Jackson Loop, NE Rio Rancho NM 87124  
 Orders Only Please: 1-800-373-6564 Info: 1-505-892-5669

## INDEXA Newsletter

First Class Mail



**INDEXA**  
 P. O. Box 607  
 Rock Hill, SC  
 29731 U.S.A.

Please check your label for  
 expiration date